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22 October 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR : Members of the United States  
Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : Improvement of Internal Security  
in Latin America

1. The trend of events in Latin America gives cause for increasing concern with particular attention to the development of conditions which can be profitably exploited by the Communists. Therefore, it is essential that U. S. efforts to counteract the Communists be conducted on an across-the-board basis, be mutually supporting, and be well coordinated from planning to execution.

2. Current U. S. activities to counter Communist subversion in Latin America involve numerous elements within the Government. The over-all coordination of these activities at the "summit" stems from the NSC, but below that level is divided between the OCB and the USIB. There is, of course, continuing day-to-day coordination between the departments and agencies involved, and some ad hoc working groups are in operation. However, in considering ways and means to achieve the highest degree of effectiveness in this effort, I believe that a more comprehensive coordination between all operational elements involved would be beneficial.

3. The primary role of the intelligence community with respect to the U. S. effort to counteract Communist subversion in Latin America is to collect the essential information required and produce the intelligence necessary to support this effort. In addition, there are resources under the control of various Board members that are now participating in the effort and can, in the future, play a more aggressive role. A case in point is the program being developed by the Army which General Willems described to us some

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months ago. You will recall that this contemplates a revitalized joint program involving full participation by all of the Military Departments. Specifically, the Army program envisages increased effort in the following areas: training activities, exchange of information, collection of information, orientation of Latin American military officers, and related training activities. Admiral Frost proposed consideration of the establishment of a Special Committee within the Inter-American Defense Board to provide for a more effective exchange of information concerning Communist subversion and related matters.

4. We should examine all possibilities for improving the effectiveness of any resources we may have available for this effort. For instance, our clandestine collection effort should be studied to determine whether the collection requirements involved and their priorities are in line with current conditions. A review of the attache system in Latin America may surface ideas for improving their participation in the over-all effort to counter Communist subversion. The primary objective of the USIB should be to seek ways and means for ensuring the participation of every resource within the intelligence community that can be appropriately directed to the support of U. S. efforts to counter Communist subversion and related activities in Latin America.

5. Within the area of the OCB's cognizance, a wide range of activities are carried on in furtherance of the U. S. counterattack against the Communist effort in Latin America. These include

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However, over-all coordination is lacking and should be provided, particularly at this time when we are trying for increased efforts all along the line. CIA is contacting Assistant Secretary Rubottom's office at the Department of State to recommend the establishment of a working group to undertake such over-all coordination.

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6. With regard to those activities that are under the cognizance of the USIB and pertinent to the problem of countering Communist subversion in Latin America, I suggest that those members of our respective organizations who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the activities involved make every effort to ensure that the intelligence community will provide full support to the working group noted in paragraph 5 above. Careful coordination in this regard within your organization should result in making possible a U. S. effort of maximum effectiveness.

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